

Subpart L—Expedited Hearings

§ 20.1201 Application.

(a) This subpart applies whenever the Coast Guard suspends a merchant mariner's license, certificate of registry, or document without a hearing under 46 U.S.C. 7702(d).

(b) The Coast Guard may, for 45 days or less, suspend and seize a license, certificate, or document if, when acting under the authority of the license, certificate, or document,—

(1) A mariner performs a safety-sensitive function on a vessel; and

(2) There is probable cause to believe that he or she—

(i) Has performed the safety-sensitive function in violation of law or Federal regulation regarding use of alcohol or a dangerous drug;

(ii) Has been convicted of an offense that would prevent the issuance or renewal of the license, certificate, or document; or,

(iii) Three years or less before the start of an S&R proceeding, has been convicted of an offense described in subparagraph 205(a)(3)(A) or (B) of the National Driver Register Act of 1982 (23 U.S.C. 401, note).

§ 20.1202 Filing of pleadings.

(a) *Complaint.* If the Coast Guard has temporarily suspended a merchant mariner's license, certificate of registry, or document, it shall immediately file a complaint under § 20.307. The complaint must contain both a copy of a notice of temporary suspension and an affidavit stating the authority and reason for temporary suspension.

(b) *Answer.* In a case under this subpart—

(1) § 20.308 does not govern answers, and

(2) The respondent shall therefore enter his or her answer at the pre-hearing conference.

§ 20.1203 Commencement of expedited hearings.

Upon receipt of a complaint with a copy of the notice of temporary suspension and the affidavit supporting the complaint, the Chief ALJ will immediately assign an ALJ and designate the case for expedited hearing.

§ 20.1205 Motion for return of temporarily suspended license, certificate of registry, or document.

(a) *Procedure.* At any time during the expedited hearing, the respondent may move that his or her license, certificate of registry, or document be returned on the grounds that the agency lacked probable cause for temporary suspension. The motion must be in writing and explain why the agency lacked probable cause.

(b) *Ruling.* If the ALJ grants the motion, the ALJ may issue such orders as are necessary for the return of the suspended license, certificate, or document and for the matter to continue in an orderly way under standard procedure.

§ 20.1206 Discontinuance of expedited hearings.

(a) *Procedure.* At any time during the expedited hearing, the respondent may move that the hearing discontinue and that the matter continue under standard procedure. A motion to discontinue must be in writing and explain why the case is inappropriate for expedited hearing.

(b) *Ruling.* If the ALJ grants the motion to discontinue, the ALJ may issue such orders as are necessary for the matter to continue in an orderly way under standard procedure.

§ 20.1207 Pre-hearing conferences.

(a) *When held.* As early as practicable, the ALJ shall order and conduct a pre-hearing conference. He or she may order the holding of the conference in person, or by telephonic or electronic means.

(b) *Answer.* The respondent shall enter his or her answer at the pre-hearing conference. If the answer is an admission, the ALJ shall either issue an appropriate order or schedule a hearing on the order.

(c) *Content.* (1) At the pre-hearing conference, the parties shall:

(i) Identify and simplify the issues in dispute and prepare an agreed statement of issues, facts, and defenses.

(ii) Establish a simplified procedure appropriate to the matter.

(iii) Fix a time and place for the hearing 30 days or less after the temporary suspension.